

REDUCTION IN ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1877.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

In compliance with a resolution of the House of April 7, 1876, a report of reductions in the estimates contained in the Book of Estimates for fiscal year ending June 30, 1877.

MAY 16, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 15, 1876.

SIR: The Secretary of War has the honor to submit the following report of reductions from the estimates contained in the Book of Estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, as requested by resolution of the House adopted April 7, 1876.

This report has been made after consultation with the heads of bureaus, division commanders, and the General of the Army, all of whom have rendered prompt assistance in ascertaining the lowest figures consistent with the efficiency of the service and safety of the country. It will be observed, from the accompanying tabular statement, that in the estimates "for recruiting," for "contingencies of the Adjutant-General's Office," for "the Signal Service," for the "pay and traveling and general expenses of the Army," and many other items, no reduction is recommended.

In the Quartermaster's Department, and in that of the Ordnance, the reductions are large, and in the Engineer Department considerable. The reduction of a million of dollars in the estimate for clothing and equipage is predicated upon the idea that, in the present capacity of the country to manufacture clothing, it is not necessary to accumulate supplies of that kind far beyond the actual demand for current use by the Army, and that the cost of preserving them from loss by moths and otherwise is a sufficient reason for reducing the surplus on hand as well as for avoiding large accumulations in future. By this large reduction the old stock will be so far exhausted during the year 1877 as to require an increased appropriation for the year 1878.

The reduction of a million of dollars in the estimates for the armament of fortifications is founded on the belief that the appropriations remaining after such reduction will strengthen our defenses as rapidly

as there is any present occasion for. The estimates for the Rock Island and the Benicia arsenals, as reduced, will equal the demand for the present uses, while the large additional structures for prospective uses, which must hereafter be made, may be safely postponed to a future session.

The reduction in the estimates for the "regular supplies of the Quartermaster's Department," for the "incidental expenses," for the "horses for cavalry and artillery," for "Army transportation," and for other items, as shown by the figures of the tabular statement, will require retrenchment and economy in the service, but I think not greater than will be found practicable.

The entire reduction from the Book of Estimates to which the resolution of the House refers is \$5,607,605.20.

Allow me to add that it seems to me important that the estimate for the building for the State, War, and Navy Departments should not be reduced. It will require the full amount to finish so much of the building as to afford a safe shelter for the valuable records of the War Department, which are now badly scattered and in unsafe buildings.

Respectfully,

ALPHONSO TAFT,
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

REVISION OF ESTIMATES

PERTAINING TO THE

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

Revision of estimates pertaining

Under what officer of the War Department.	Title of appropriation.	Page on estimate book of 1876-77.	DIVISIONS ACCORD	
			THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.	
			Estimates as originally submitted.	Estimates as revised by the Secretary of War.
General of the Army ..	Expenses of Commanding General's Office	67	\$5,000 00	\$5,000 00
Adjutant-General.....	Expenses of recruiting	67	107,920 00	107,920 00
	Contingencies, Adjutant-General's Department.	67	3,000 00	3,000 00
Chief Signal-Officer	Signal service	67	12,500 00	12,500 00
Paymaster-General	Pay, and traveling and general expenses of the Army.	67-70	12,840,288 50	12,840,288 50
	Pay of the Military Academy	70		
Commissary-General ..	Subsistence of the Army	70-71	2,570,000 00	2,570,000 00
Quartermaster-General.	Regular supplies of the Quartermaster's Department.	71	4,600,000 00	4,000,000 00
	Incidental expenses	72	1,500,000 00	1,150,000 00
	Horses for cavalry and artillery	72	400,000 00	250,000 00
	Army transportation	72	4,500,000 00	3,900,000 00
	Barracks and quarters	72	1,900,000 00	1,500,000 00
	Construction and repair of hospitals	72	100,000 00	100,000 00
	Clothing and equipage	72	1,500,000 00	500,000 00
	National cemeteries	73	250,000 00	125,000 00
	Contingencies of the Army	73	100,000 00	75,000 00
Surgeon-General	Medical and Hospital Department	73	225,000 00	225,000 00
	Medical museum and library	73	10,000 00	10,000 00
	Appliances for disabled soldiers	73	5,000 00	5,000 00
Chief of Engineers	Engineer depot at Willet's Point, N. Y.	73	10,000 00	5,000 00
	Trials with torpedoes	73	10,000 00	10,000 00
Chief of Ordnance	Ordnance service	73	200,000 00	125,000 00
	Ordnance, ordnance stores, and supplies: Manufacture of metallic ammunition for small-arms.	73	150,000 00	75,000 00
	Overhauling, cleaning, and preserving new ordnance stores on hand at the arsenals.	73	50,000 00	50,000 00
	Dismounting guns and removing the armaments, &c.	74	25,000 00	25,000 00
	Repairing, preserving, overhauling, painting, &c., the armaments, &c.	74	25,000 00	10,000 00
	Saddlers' tools and materials, &c.	74	25,000 00	
	Repairing ordnance and ordnance stores in the hands of troops.	74	25,000 00	20,000 00
	Repairing ordnance and ordnance stores for issue at the arsenals and depots.	74	25,000 00	20,000 00
	Purchase and manufacture of ordnance stores to fill requisitions of troops.	74	200,000 00	150,000 00
	Infantry, cavalry, and artillery equipments, consisting of, &c.	74	100,000 00	100,000 00
	Re-covering cavalry saddles with leather, manufacture, &c.	74	75,000 00	25,000 00
	Purchase of a site for powder depot, and its preparation, &c.	74	50,000 00	50,000 00
	Manufacture of arms at national armories.	74	500,000 00	250,000 00
	Armament of fortifications	74		
Superintendent of the Military Academy.	Current and ordinary expenses Military Academy.	75, 76		
	Miscellaneous items and incidental expenses Military Academy.	76, 77		
Chief of Ordnance	Springfield armory, Springfield, Mass., repairs and preservation, &c.	123		
	Rock Island arsenal, Rock Island, Ill. : Shop G, an iron-working and finishing shop for the arsenal.	123		
	Shop I, a wood-working and leather-working shop for the arsenal.	123		
	Shop F, a rolling-mill and forging shop for the armory.	123		
	One block subaltern officers' quarters	123		
	A stone fire-proof building for offices	123		
	New machinery and shop fixtures ..	123		
	Sewers; building new roads; care, &c.	124		

Revision of estimates pertaining to the

Under what officer of the War Department.	Title of appropriation.	Page on estimate-book of 1876-77.	DIVISIONS ACCORD	
			THE ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.	
			Estimates as originally submitted.	Estimates as revised by the Secretary of War.
Chief of Ordnance — Continued.	Improvement of water-power.....	124	.....	.....
	Care and preservation of the Rock Island bridge.....	124	.....	.....
	Benicia arsenal, Benicia, Cal.:			
	Items under this head numbered 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.....	124	.....	.....
	One machine-shop, (or item 2).....	124	.....	.....
	To build a wharf at southwest corner of reserve, &c., (or item 4.).....	124	.....	.....
Chief of Engineers.....	Repairs of arsenals.....	124	.....	.....
	Fortifications and other works of defense.*	125, 126	.....	.....
	Rivers and harbors—no revision, bill has passed House.†	127-132	.....	.....
	Surveys of northern and northwestern lakes and Mississippi River.....	132	.....	.....
	Buildings and grounds in and around Washington:			
	Items under this head, 1 to 12, 14 to 16, 21, 22, 26 to 29, 34 to 37, 39 to 41. And \$5,000 for repairs of water-pipes and fire-plugs, and \$2,000 for care and repair of bridges, (retained.).....	133	.....	.....
	Items under this head, 13, 17 to 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 30 to 33, and 38, and \$5,000 for repairs of water-pipes and fire-plugs, and \$5,000 for Anacostia bridge, (dropped.).....	133, 134	.....	.....
	Washington Aqueduct:			
	Items 1, 2, and 3.....	134	.....	.....
	Item 4.....	134	.....	.....
	Items 5 and 6.....	134	.....	.....
	Item 7.....	134	.....	.....
Superintendent Public Buildings and Grounds.	Building cor. Seventeenth and F sts.	134	.....	.....
	Building for State, War, and Navy Departments, east wing.	134	.....	.....
Superintendent of the Military Academy.	Telegraph to connect, &c.....	134	.....	.....
Quartermaster-General.	Buildings and grounds Military Academy.	134	.....	.....
Chief Signal-Officer....	Permanent buildings at sea-coast forts.	135	\$500,000 00	\$500,000 00
	Observation and report of storms.....	152	.....	.....
	Construction, maintenance, and repair military telegraph lines.....	152	.....	.....
Chief of Engineers....	Surveys for military defenses.....	153	.....	.....
	Geographical surveys of Territories of the United States.....	153	.....	.....
Adjutant-General.....	Collection and payment of bounty, prize-money, &c.†	153	.....	.....
Secretary of War.....	Expenses of military convicts.....	153	.....	.....
	Publication of official records of the war of the rebellion.....	153	.....	.....
	Refunding to States expenses incurred in raising volunteers.....	153	.....	.....
Adjutant-General.....	Support of the Leavenworth military prison.‡	153	.....	.....
Secretary of War.....	Support of National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.....	154	.....	.....
	International Exhibition of 1876.....	154	.....	.....
	Reductions made by Sec'y of War.....		32,598,708 50 28,793,708 50	28,793,708 50
			3,805,000 00	.....

* The fortification bill has passed the House.

† The river and harbor bill has passed the House.

The foregoing table shows the reductions made by the Secretary of War on revision of the estimates WAR DEPARTMENT, May 15, 1876.

REDUCTION IN ESTIMATES OF APPROPRIATIONS.

7

military establishment—Continued.

ING TO CONGRESSIONAL BILLS OF 1875 AND PRIOR YEARS.				RESULTS.			
MILITARY ACADEMY BILL.				SUNDRY CIVIL BILL.		Reductions made in the estimates of 1877 by the revision of the Secretary of War.	Difference between present bill and estimates originally submitted.
Estimates as originally submitted.	Amount proposed to be given by House of Representatives.	Amount proposed to be given by Senate.	Amount acceptable to Secretary of War.	Amount of estimates as originally submitted.	Estimates as revised by the Secretary of War.		
				\$60,000 00		\$60,000 00	
				9,000 00	\$9,000 00		
				57,360 00	57,360 00		
				69,568 00		69,568 00	
				11,090 00		11,090 00	
				100,000 00	100,000 00		
				184,000 00	150,000 00	34,000 00	
				232,800 00	232,800 00		
				7,000 00	7,000 00		
				150,870 00		150,870 00	
				217,060 00	217,000 00		
				9,528 00		9,528 00	
				20,000 00	20,000 00		
				20,000 00		20,000 00	
				294 00	294 00		
				1,378,428 44	1,378,428 44		
				1,000 00	1,000 00		
\$29,000 00	\$500 00	\$8,500 00	\$8,500 00				\$80,500 00
				415,092 64	415,092 64		
				45,000 00	45,000 00		
				50,000 00	30,000 00	20,000 00	
				120,000 00	95,000 00	25,000 00	
				75,000 00	67,090 80	7,909 20	
				40,000 00	16,000 00	24,000 00	
				50,000 00	50,000 00		
				250,000 00	250,000 00		
				61,688 15	61,688 15		
				89,000 00	89,000 00		
437,470 00	231,241 00	308,841 00	309,841 00	5,583,919 23			128,629 00
				3,781,254 03	3,781,254 03		
				1,802,665 20		5,607,665 20	

† See letters of Secretary of War to Senate and House of Representatives of May 6, 1876.

§ This item pertains to the legislative, executive, and judicial bill.

pursuant to House resolution of April 7, 1876.

ALPHONSO TAFT, *Secretary of War.*

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